

### SEES NO ROOM FOR FREIGHT RATE CUT

Hoover Asserts Railroad Systems in Much Too Impoverished State.

**MUST CUT EXPENSES**

Wage Scales and Operating Costs Will Have to Be Reduced, Secretary Avers.

(By Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—General freight rate reductions are impossible at this time because of the impoverished state of the railroad systems of the United States, Secretary of Commerce Hoover testified today before the Interstate Commerce Commission investigation of transportation rate levels.

"Until rates come down and railroad expenditures for new construction and betterments climb up, Mr. Hoover declared, 'the economic machine will move slowly.' He added, however, that in his opinion, railroads operating costs, in which connection he mentioned wage scales, must come down and railroad credit must be bettered before rates can be safely reduced.

Most of the existing economic depression is due to the 'spread' between the prices received by producers of raw materials and the prices paid out by consumers for finished goods, Mr. Hoover declared. Railroad rates, like wages, on their present basis, increase this 'spread,' asserted, giving this increased 'spread' as the explanation of the lost purchasing power of the farm population.

Expressing his belief that an opportunity to cut rates would be had in about a year, Mr. Hoover, who was called as a witness by the United States Chamber of Commerce, said it would be an 'economic crime' to rate schedules were not revised to give basic raw materials much cheaper transportation as compared with finished and high-grade materials.

"Mr. Hoover's view of railroad credit brought him into charged for fight with Clifford Thorne, counsel for shippers and farm organizations, who demanded, on cross-examination, whether railroad users should be obliged to pay rates based 'on stock securities issued as bonuses with bonds created for promoters' profits' and, generally, representing no investment.

"Two heard that talk all my life," rejoined the secretary, "but the commission is dealing with the future, not the past. Its rates are based on its tentative valuations of existing railroad property, not the mass of paper in the markets which sell for a dollar one day and a hundred the next."

State railroad commissions centered their evidence today upon an attempt to get passenger fares reduced. Clyde M. Reed, chairman of the Kansas Utilities Commission, opened the discussion with an argument that the present rate of 2.6 cents per mile was economically unjustified and had operated to reduce the income of railroads by restricting travel. Fred W. Putnam, of the Minnesota commission, and J. F. Shaughnessy, chairman of the Nevada commission, presented similar views.

The Pullman Company also appealed to the commission to reduce the surcharge on travel in its cars, estimating the drop in its revenues from those of 1920 at \$1,600,000 per month.

### KAHN URGES TURNOVER TAX TO FILL TREASURY

Asserts Sales Levy Plan Ideal and Most Just System.

**EXCORIATES THE PRESENT LAW**

Existing Measure Indicted as Cumbersome, Unscientific, Founded on Sectional and Class Discrimination, and Depressing to Industry.

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The "simplicity, productivity and painlessness" of such a tax, imposed at a rate of one-half of 1 per cent as a trial, would make it an ideal means of raising revenue, Mr. Kahn asserted.

He characterized the present revenue measures—the excess profits and income taxes, with their various divisions, as "breeders of harm to all the people."

Pretors One-Half of 1 Per Cent.

"I favor a tax (at a very low rate), limited to commodities and exempting initial sales of farm crops and live stock and further exempting turnovers aggregating annually not exceeding \$5,000," the speaker said. "The rate of the tax should not be above 1 per cent; it should, indeed, prefer one-half of 1 per cent to begin with."

"It is clear in my mind that in order to restore normalcy to our economic life and industrial activities, our surtaxes must be reduced to the figure courageously recommended and convincingly advocated by the Secretary of the Treasury in his latest report to Congress, namely, a maximum rate, which, including the normal tax, does not exceed 3 1/2 per cent."

Indicts Existing Measure.

Mr. Kahn indicted the Federal revenue law now in force, on the following grounds:

"It is a measure unscientific, inequitable in operation, cumbersome, vexatious and intolerably complex. It bears the imprint of sectional and class discrimination. It penalizes thrift and industry, but leaves the wastrel and the shirker untouched. It discourages, disturbs and impedes business and places the American business man at a disadvantage as against his European competitors in the markets of the world. It tends to curtail production, restrains consumption, diminishes the demand for labor, depresses agriculture. It facilitates governmental extravagance. It impairs the incentive to effort and to self-depight by saving. It makes for higher costs. It hampers and deflects the flow of capital. It depletes the necessary cash working fund of industry and stands in the way of that accumulation of new capital which is indispensable requisite for development. It has shoved a clumsy hand into the delicately adjusted organization of our commerce and industry."

### WAR VETERANS CHEER MESSAGE FROM WILSON

Former President Writes Physical Weakness Prevents Presence in Person.

(By Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—The national conference of the Disabled American Veterans of the World War meeting here today, went on record as opposing the policy of training disabled former service men in abandoned cantonments.

The conference also advocated establishment of a circular sanatorium in convenient locations and rest homes for convalescents and for vocational training school students in poor physical condition. Workmen were asked to investigate needs of the War Department to make available army service records for consideration with disabled men's claims.

A message from former President Wilson read by Judge Robert S. Marx, of Cincinnati, national commander of the organization, was greeted with cheers. It was as follows:

"I hope that before adjournment you will have an opportunity to continue to the meeting of representatives of my friends and war comrades, the disabled veterans, my warm greetings and an assurance of my deep interest in everything that affects their welfare. Only my physical weakness prevents me from giving myself the pleasure of greeting them in person, but I am sure that they will remember that for our greater cause they have suffered."

### ORDER DRIVE AGAINST BIMINI-MIAMI TRAFFIC

Liquor Smuggling on Florida Coast to Be Attacked With Energy.

(By Associated Press.)

MIAMI, Fla., Feb. 3.—Orders issued in Washington today for a concerted drive against liquor and drug smugglers along the Florida coast are in conformity with a request made several weeks ago by a delegation of local prohibition workers, headed by W. J. Bryan, who went to Washington and laid before the authorities their alleged facts as to conditions here.

The island of Bimini, in the Bahamas group, is only forty miles from Miami, and shipments of whisky and other intoxicants from there are daily landed by schooners and airships at various points along the coast near the city. It is said there are great stores of liquor at Bimini, and on other islands in the Bahamas, and local officials have been unable to do much toward stopping the increasing traffic in wines and liquors.

Expect to Enroll 400,000.

CHATTANOOGA, TENN., Feb. 3.—Sunday school enrollment in the Southern Presbyterian Church will reach at least 120,000 by April, the end of the church year, according to estimates made by R. E. Macgill, secretary of the Presbyterian Committee on Publication, to the campaign committee of the Presbyterian progressive program, in session here today.

### TRINKLE URGES UNION OF ALL STATE'S UNITS FOR GREATER VIRGINIA

(Continued From First Page.)

every working hour to work for the advancement of Virginia and its people.

A complimentary reference to his late political opponent, Colonel Henry W. Anderson, who was one of the hosts of the occasion, drew a storm of applause.

"The two presiding officers of the General Assembly thanked the chamber on behalf of their respective branches. Lieutenant Governor West declared that the key to returning prosperity was in the hands of business men, and said that if the General Assembly, as its sole act, follows the recommendation of the new Governor and reduces the tax on notes and bonds, their action will mark a new era. That Congress should, in its readiness to plan, pay as much attention to the housing conditions in cities as the agricultural committee, was his suggestion, which seemed to meet the approval of his auditors.

Representative Anderson gave a comprehensive outline of the vast amount of work done by the committee studying the agricultural situation, which followed the session devoted to industry and commerce after the period of extravagance and speculation immediately after the war. He pointed out to the business men present the absolute interdependence of agricultural and industrial prosperity.

The problem facing the nation, he said, is to find a way to restore the purchasing power of the American dollar. He outlined many of the suggestions made to his committee, but declared none of them had the element of permanency, while the majority were impracticable.

By his figures, 49 per cent of the consumer's dollar is represented by the cost of distribution. More efficient distribution, he told the business men, together with less uneconomical waste, would go a long way toward solving the problem. He strongly advocated better organization among the farmers and declared that the wise business man is the one who will help direct farmers' organization along sound, business lines.

Representative Anderson cited many figures and tables to show the farmer had been hit the hardest by any class by the deflation process. He stressed particularly the relation between the return to the farmer and transportation costs.

"After all, the real remedy," he

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606 1/2 East Broad.  
8 East Broad.  
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ARMY BLANKETS  
\$1.95 to \$4.95

ARMY OVERCOATS  
\$4.95

Officers' Style  
Dress Shoes . . . \$5.50  
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Last Call on UNDERWEAR

Men's Heavy Underwear  
50c Garment

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## A Word of Thanks to Telephone Users:

Early in the week we told you of the difficulties under which telephone service was being given because of the storm and transportation situation.

We told you that we were having great trouble in bringing operators to the exchanges and that the volume of calls was about 100% above normal, imposing a tremendous burden upon us.

In view of these facts, we asked our friends, the telephone users, to defer making calls unless they were of real importance and to limit the length of their conversation as much as they could.

It gives us pleasure to report that our request was cheerfully heeded. There was a distinct curtailment of telephone traffic through the elimination of unessential calls.

You aided us materially in handling the enormous traffic overload and made possible the continuation of Richmond's telephone service without serious interruption.

To you who use the telephone, our thanks and appreciation are extended.

### The Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company of Virginia

A. S. TANNER, Manager

**Hall**  
OPTICAL CO., INC.  
211 E. BROAD ST.  
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## Watch for The Evening Dispatch Magazine Section Saturday!

### "The Man Who Knew Nothing on Earth"

A Short Story by Tristram Tupper, Complete in This Issue.

### "Advocations of College Men"

What Some Students Have Done and Are Doing to Get Along.

### "Beauty and Nick"

Another Installment of Sir Philip Gibb's Gripping Story.

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\$75 in Prizes to the Winners of This Popular Feature.

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